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Message Text

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43
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 DRC-01 /153 W
---------- 021543
R 200915Z MAR 74
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3204
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 1419

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PO, NL
SUBJECT: DUTCH VIEWS ON PORTUGUESE COLONIALISM

REF: THE HAGUE 0718 (NOTAL)

1. FONOFF POLITICAL DIRECTOR VAN LYNDEN ASKED DCM TO SEE HIM ON MARCH 19 TO RECEIVE A COPY OF DUTCH MEMORANDUM ON "DECOLONIZATION OF THE PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES IN AFRICA". THE MEMORANDUM REVIEWS THE ORIGIN AND DEVELOP-MENT OF THE SEVERAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN PORTUGAL'S
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AFRICAN TERRITORIES, ESPECIALLY GUINEA BISSAU, REFERS TO

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UNSC RESOLUTION 322 OF NOVEMBER 22, 1972, AND CALLS
UPON THE RECIPIENTS OF THE DUTCH MEMORANDUM TO PERSUADE
PORTUGAL TO OPT FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH ITS AFRICAN TERRI-
TORIES WHILE THERE IS STILL TIME. THE MEMORANDUM ALSO
MAKES SEVERAL SUGGESTIONS TO ASSIST IN THE PROCESS OF
ACHIEVING INDEPENDENCE VIA NEGOTIATIONS WITH PORTUGAL.

2. VAN LYNDEN SAID THAT THE NETHERLANDS EMBASSY IN
WASHINGTON HAD ALREADY BEEN INSTRUCTED TO DISCUSS THE
MEORANDUM WITH THE DEPARTMENT AND SEEK USG SUPPORT
IN THE COURSE OF ACTION PROPOSED BY THE GON. DUTCH
EMBASSIES IN MOST OF THE OTHER CAPITALS WHO ARE
INFO ON THIS MESSAGE, PLUS ALL OTHER EC CAPITALS AND THE
VATICAN, HAVE BEEN ASKED TO APPROACH THE HOST GOVERNMENT
IN A SIMILAR VEIN. THE DUTCH ATTITUDE TOWARD THE PROBLEM,
VAN LYNDEN CONTINUED, IS THAT WE WISH THE PORTUGUESE
WELL FOR AS ALONG AS THEY CAN STAY ON TOP OF THE PRESENT
SITUATION BUT WE ARE CONVINCED THAT IT IS BEST FOR THEM
TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE WITH THEIR AFRICAN TERRITORIES WHILE
THERE IS STILL TIME. VAN LYNDEN REITERATED THE VIEW
EXPRESSED BY HIS MFA COLLEAGUE CITED IN REFTEL THAT IT
WAS ESSENTIAL TO GET A PROCESS OF NEGOTIATION STARTED
BEFORE THE NEXT UNGA. OTHERWISE IT COULD PROVE TO BE A
VERY DIFFICULT SESSION AND IN THE MEANWHILE THE NORDIC
COUNTRIES WOULD HAVE BEGUN TO RECOGNIZE GUINEA BISSAU
AND THE DUTCH COULD NOT BE FAR BEHIND.

3. VAN LYNDEN EMPHASIZED THAT THE DUTCH WERE RAISING
THIS MATTER WITH US IN BOTH WASHINGTON AND THE HAGUE
BECAUSE THEY VERY MUCH WANTED TO CONSULT WITH US AND
OBTAIN OUR VIEWS AND SUGGESTIONS. VAN LYNDEN HOPED
THEREFORE TO HEAR BACK FROM US AUTHORITIES PRIOR TO
THE NEXT MEETING OF THE EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS ON
APRIL 18-19.

4. COPIES OF THE DUTCH MEMORANDUM BEING POUCHED TO EUR,
AF AND IO.
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